

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 06179 040849Z
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CA-01 PPT-01 SSO-00
VO-05 FBIE-00 SCS-06 /039 W
-----092022 040904Z /15

O R 040820Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3990
INFO AMCONSUL SYDNEY NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON NIACT IMMEDIATE
DEPT OF JUSTICE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMCONSUL AUCKLAND
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 6179

MANILA FOR LEGATT; CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD AND ICA ADVISER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PDIP, CFED, PORS, SOCI, CVIS (MEIER, JOHN H.), CPRS,
TN, US, CA
SUBJ: EXTRADITION: JOHN HERBERT MEIER (AKA IVOR A. ROBERTSON)

REF: WELLINGTON 4094

1. GOA DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) HAS JUST
CONFIRMED MEIER'S ITINERARY AS OUTLINED REFTEL. DFA HAS
INSTRUCTED AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN WELLINGTON TO
PROVIDE NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WITH ALL
AVAILABLE EVIDENCE RE MEIER'S COURT APPEARANCE IN SYDNEY
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JULY 28 TO ASSIST IN COURT PRESENTATION SHOULD MEIER BE
ARRESTED IN NEW ZEALAND.

2. IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF AUGUST 4, AUSTRALIAN
DFA OFFICIAL STATED THAT GOA WOULD PROVISIONALLY ARREST
MEIER AGAIN IF WE SO REQUESTED WHENEVER HE MIGHT RETURN
TO AUSTRALIA, BUT URGED THAT WE NOT DO SO. MEIER'S COUNSEL

WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY MAKE CLAIM OF DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY AND HEARING MAGISTRATE, DRAWING ON JULY 28 PRECEDENT (HOWEVER WRONGFUL) WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY DISCHARGE MEIER. SECOND ARREST, APPEARANCE BEFORE MAGISTRATE, AND RELEASE OF MEIER WOULD CAUSE PUBLICITY UNFAVORABLE TO AUSTRALIAN AND US GOVERNMENTS BUT SYMPATHETIC TO MEIER, AND WOULD ALSO PROBABLY IRRITATE HEARING MAGISTRATE IN SYDNEY IN THE PROCESS.

3. ON BALANCE, WE BELIEVE IT INADVISABLE FOR US TO ASK FOR MEIER'S SECOND PROVISIONAL ARREST SHOULD HE TURN UP IN AUSTRALIA EN ROUTE TO AUCKLAND AND TONGA. BETTER COURSE, AS SUGGESTED PARA 6 REFTTEL, WOULD BE TO ATTEMPT TO HAVE HIM ARRESTED IN NEW ZEALAND. AT THE SAME TIME, WE OF COURSE DEFER TO DEPARTMENT IN MAKING THAT JUDGEMENT, AND WILL ASK GOA TO ARREST MEIER IN AUSTRALIA IF SO INSTRUCTED.

4. PLEASE ADVISE.
ALSTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXTRADITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CANBER06179
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780320-1012
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780899/aaaadfaa.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: db00366a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 WELLINGTON 4094
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1839790
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXTRADITION: JOHN HERBERT MEIER (AKA IVOR A. ROBERTSON)
TAGS: PDIP, CFED, PORS, SOCI, CVIS, CPRS, (MEIER, JOHN H)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/db00366a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014